

(TAPS). TAPS was founded in 1994 as the nation's first national support network for the families of fallen service members. Since then, TAPS has supported over 50,000 surviving family members, casualty officers, and caregivers. When President Obama said, of all of the November 24 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, that "these men and women have enriched our lives and helped define our shared experience as Americans," he was referring in part to the 50,000 lives of surviving military family members that have been touched by Bonnie's work.

TAPS has affected lives through a myriad of undertakings: a 24/7 helpline for those grieving the loss of a loved one, peer-based and community-oriented emotional support, case-work assistance, informational resources, and the annual Good Grief Camp for young people. All of this work is offered at no cost for survivors.

In addition to her service at the helm for TAPS, Bonnie is a retired Major in the Air Force Reserve and currently serves on the Defense Health Board and the Board of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. She also co-chaired the Department of Defense Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Bonnie Carroll for the work she has done on behalf of veterans and their families. Her record of service is truly deserving of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Her work serves as a reminder of our sacred compact with those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to this nation and their families.

IN HONOR OF JON DANA RAGGETT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a remarkable man and to mourn his passing. Jon Raggett was a brilliant engineer, an enthusiastic and accomplished builder of kayaks, and a tireless and generous philanthropist who founded a nonprofit whose mission was to build schools in developing countries. He was also a lifelong friend of mine, who died following a sudden illness on September 26, 2015, at the age of 71.

Jon Dana Raggett was born July 9, 1944, and he grew up in Carmel, California, where his love for boats and the sea was born. Jon graduated from Princeton University with an engineering degree, received an MS from Stanford University, and returned to Princeton to complete his Ph.D. in civil engineering. Throughout his engineering career, he brought his keen analytical mind and his imaginative creativity to projects in structural engineering, earthquake research, and the aerodynamic effects of extreme wind on bridges. Through West Wind Laboratory, which he founded in 1988, he performed wind studies on major bridge, architectural, and industrial projects all over the world. Closer to home, Jon worked on the Golden Gate Bridge, including the creation of a suicide barrier and a retrofit to improve the performance of the bridge in high

winds, and he also worked on the new span of the Bay Bridge. John also served as a member of the engineering faculty at Santa Clara University and the Naval Postgraduate School.

In 1994, inspired by Theodore Roosevelt's admonition to "do what you can with what you have," Jon founded Schools3, a nonprofit corporation which began as Jon's attempt to use his engineering skills to address problems of poverty in the developing world. Jon worked on a design for a three-room primary school with an office-storage building and a latrine which could be built with concrete blocks, a metal roof, and finished with plaster walls. This design could be built inexpensively all over the world, and through Schools3 Jon was able to fund and complete the construction of 71 schools in Africa, Honduras, and India. Jon donated his time and the time of his assistant Ann Keeble to Schools3, so every dollar contributed went directly towards the construction of a school, with no overhead, administrative, or marketing costs. In 2002, Schools3 received a commendation for this work from the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee in its report on Foreign Operations.

Jon also used his structural design skills to create musical instruments out of plywood and furniture which was inventive and playful. But his primary passion was for building boats, and designed and built countless beautiful kayaks over the years, no sooner completing one project than he began thinking about how he would improve on the design for the next boat, and there was always a next boat. At Jon's service, his sisters-in-law quoted from Kenneth Grahame's beloved *The Wind in the Willows*: "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." No one believed this more deeply than Jon Raggett.

Jon and his wife Tory, a talented artist whom he met when they were both 10 years old, raised two sons, Mark and George. When grandchildren Joe, Hugh, Mae, and Owen arrived, Jon took delight in introducing them to the joys of being on the water. Jon's love of his family, his deep commitment to doing what he could to make the world a better place, and his impressive accomplishments in civil engineering combined to create an extraordinary man. His untimely death is an enormous loss not only to his beloved family and many friends, but to the world which he worked so hard to improve. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in celebrating the life of this exemplary man and his remarkable accomplishments.

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8) to modernize energy infrastructure, build a 21st century

energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition of The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 8). This bill would reverse America's progress on energy efficiency and energy security. In a time when we need a forward-looking comprehensive energy policy that preserves the environment and provides sustainable energy to American consumers, we cannot afford to reverse course.

The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act would cripple ongoing efforts to curb energy use and promote energy efficiency. This bill removes the effective provisions of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 which require federal buildings to reduce fossil fuel-generated energy. Additionally this bill would make it much harder for the Department of Energy to provide assistance for building code development at the national, state, and local level.

Instead of making needed investments in our energy infrastructure, H.R. 8 continues to protect big oil and gas companies by attacking newer environmental standards and procedures. Section 1101 of this bill makes extremely hazardous changes to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission natural gas pipeline permitting process undermining environmental protections and land owners' rights. This section would force FERC to decide on pipeline applications within 90 days even in cases of extremely complex proposed projects. Additionally, it would undermine land owners' rights by allowing oil and gas companies to use aerial or remote surveys for environmental data instead of actual surveying the land.

As the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, I am disappointed that H.R. 8 would make it easier for oil and gas companies to get approval for pipelines through our nation's most treasured areas, our national parks. It also threatens protections in the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Federal Power Act by allowing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to override conditions placed on hydropower project licenses by state and federal agencies that serve to protect wildlife from the potential impacts.

President Obama has stated that he will veto this legislation should it come to his desk because H.R. 8 sidesteps important environmental procedures and actually increases energy consumption and consumer costs. According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, H.R. 8 would actually cost American citizens nearly \$20 billion dollars through 2040. Instead of this misguided legislation, I support President Obama's "All-of-the-Above" energy strategy for our country which includes a combination of fossil fuels, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.

I am committed to advancing America's energy policy by moving away from depending on fossil fuels and towards clean and renewable sources of energy. For these reasons, I will vote against the backward path of H.R. 8, The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act.